



MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A N N U A L
R E P O R T
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
- 1955 -

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Richard Mordecai, J.P., Chairman

Councillor D.M. Thomas, Vice-Chairman

Councillors : Arthur D. Edwards; Harry Shearan; M.G. Griffiths;
D.C. Watkins; Brinley Richards; Morgan Jones; C.M. Jones;
Mrs. M.A. Harries; Garfield Collins; T.J. Jones; Edgar Thomas;
Stanley Lewis; Mrs. E. Kennedy; E.J. Llewellyn;
County Councillor Llewellyn Evans.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

D.W. FOSTER, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
Assistant County Medical Officer

D. MORGAN THOMAS, Chief Sanitary Inspector

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspection of Meat & Other
Foods, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,
General Hygiene Diploma (Advanced) and School Hygiene Diploma, Royal
Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

IVOR DAVIES, B.Sc., Sanitary Inspector

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Meat & Other Foods
Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerk :

DAVID B. THOMAS

Rodent Operative :

HAROLD M. BARROW

Public Health Department,

Maesteg.

October, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Maesteg
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1955.

The contents and arrangements of the Report are in accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

I should point out that my appointment as Medical Officer of Health did not take place until January, 1956. My predecessor, Dr. Bolz, left to take up an appointment in London on 1st February, 1955 so that for the remainder of the year the post of Medical Officer of Health was vacant. Hence I can usefully comment only on the statistics for the year 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY :

The infant mortality rate for 1955 was disappointingly high (44.08) compared with both the rate for the County (33.58) and England and Wales (24.9). The most probable explanation for this state of affairs lies in the poor standard of housing accommodation in the town, with the consequent overcrowding that exists. A study of the causes of infant deaths for 1955 tends to confirm this view, for five (31.3%) out of the sixteen deaths which occurred, fall into the categories of Influenza, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, compared with about 20% for England and Wales as a whole. Deaths from these diseases are much more likely to occur under overcrowded conditions, owing to the increased likelihood of the infant becoming infected.

It is apparent from the statistics on housing in this Report, that the Council carried out a vigorous policy with regard to enforcing repairs to the older type of property, and a continuation of this policy together with the building of as many houses as circumstances permit will contribute more than any other single measure to a decline in infant mortality.

DEATH RATE :

The crude death rate for Maesteg (12.58) was slightly in excess of that for England and Wales (11.7). This is not an accurate comparison, as allowance must be made for the different age structure of the population. This is done by means of the Comparability Factor (1.17), which in this case indicates that the population of Maesteg is slightly younger than that of England and Wales as a whole, due probably to the higher birth rate. When allowance has been made for this fact, then the adjusted death rate which is more strictly comparable with the rate for England and Wales, is found to be 14.72, appreciably in excess of that for England and Wales. One factor which might contribute to this higher death rate is the high proportion of the population engaged in coal mining. Some evidence has been brought forward to suggest that working underground in coal mines increases the likelihood of contracting not only diseases of the lung but also other conditions such as heart disease. This is now being more fully investigated by the London School of Hygiene and we in the Health Department are co-operating with them in supplying information.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The figures with regard to Tuberculosis for Maesteg conform to the general pattern now becoming apparent in England and Wales as a whole. That is to say there is a continuation of the sharp reduction in the number of deaths, and what is even more encouraging, a decrease in the number of notifications of new cases.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, and also the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation extended to me in taking up my present post.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. W. FOSTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS
MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT

Area in Acres	.....	.....	6,709
Population 1955 (Estimated)	.....	.....	22,820
" 1891 Census	.....	.....	9,471
" 1901 "	.....	.....	15,015
" 1911 "	.....	.....	24,977
" 1921 "	.....	.....	28,960
" 1931 "	.....	.....	25,552
" 1951 "	.....	.....	23,124
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1955	.....	£83,006	
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	.....	£308	

			<u>Per 1,000 Live Persons</u>
Birth Rate for 1955	.....	.....	15.91
Average Birth Rate for 10 previous years	.....		19.82
Death Rate (from All Causes) for 1955	.....		12.58
Average Death Rate for 10 previous years	.....		12.52
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 1955			0.35
Average Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 10 previous years	.....		0.50
Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for 1955	.....	.....	0.04
Infantile Mortality Rate for 1955	.....		44.08
Average Infantile Mortality Rate for 10 previous years	.....		45.82

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
MAESTEG URBAN DISTRICT

Births :-

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	200	152	352
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	9	11
Still-Births	...	...	...	5	8	13
Birth Rate	...	...	...		15.91	
Birth Rate, England & Wales		...	...		15.0	

Deaths :-

Males - 172 Females - 115 Total - 287
 Death Rate - 12.58
 Comparability Factor - 1.17
 Corrected Death Rate - 14.72
 Death Rate, England & Wales - 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :-

From Puerperal Infections	...	...	...	0
Other Maternal Infections	...	...	...	0
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			...	0.00

Deaths of Infants under One year of Age :-

Legitimate	...	...	...	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	16
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	44.08.

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age :-

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0
Total	...	...	...	...	6
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	16.53

Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea
(under 2 years)

	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	0

SUMMARY OF THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES
AND THEIR RATES FOR THE YEAR 1955
(Civilian and Non-Civilian)

Maesteg Urban District

		Number of Deaths		Total	Rate per 1,000
		M	F		
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	1	8	0.35
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	1	-	1	0.04
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	0.00
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0.00
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0.00
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0	0.00
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0.00
8.	Measles	0	0	0	0.00
9.	Other infective & parasitic diseases	2	0	2	0.09
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	7	3	10	0.44
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0	2	0.09
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	5	5	0.22
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	5	5	0.22
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	10	20	0.88
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1	0.04
16.	Diabetes	1	0	1	0.04
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	18	38	1.67
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	18	11	29	1.27
19.	Hypertension, with Heart Disease	2	1	3	0.13
20.	Other Heart Disease	37	38	75	3.29
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	6	3	9	0.39
22.	Influenza	3	2	5	0.22
23.	Pneumonia	12	4	16	0.70
24.	Bronchitis	14	3	17	0.74
25.	Other Diseases of respiratory system	5	0	5	0.22
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	0	1	1	0.04
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	2	0	2	0.09
28.	Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	0	1	0.04
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3	0.13
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0.00
31.	Congenital Malformations	3	1	4	0.18
32.	Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases	13	7	20	0.88
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2	0.09
34.	All other Accidents	0	0	0	0.00
35.	Suicide	1	1	2	0.09
36.	Homicide & Operations of War	0	0	0	0.00

ALL CAUSES : Males - 172 Females - 115
 Total - 287
 Rate per 1,000 - 12.58

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY) - VITAL STATISTICS, 1955.

	Estimated Populat- ion, 1955	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>INF'T MORTALITY</u>		<u>NEO-NAT. MORTALITY</u>	
		No. of Births	Rate per 1,000 Populat- ion	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Populat- ion	Deaths under 1 Year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 wks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	737,400	11,137	15.0	9,653	11.7	374	24.9	253	17.3
Administrative County	534,900	8,236	15.10	6,972	13.09	286	33.58	189	22.72
Urban Districts	202,500	2,901	15.40	2,681	13.03	88	34.73	64	22.95
Rural Districts			14.33		13.24		30.33		22.06
Health Div'n. Const. Districts									
Aberdare & Aberdare Urban	40,500	551	13.60	677	16.72	18	32.67	14	25.41
Mountain Ash & Mountain Ash Urban	30,800	465	15.10	443	14.38	17	36.56	13	27.96
Caerphilly & Caerphilly Urban	36,960	668	18.07	398	10.77	24	35.93	16	23.95
& Gelligaer & Gelligaer Urban	36,170	672	18.58	449	12.41	33	49.11	21	31.25
Mid-Glamorgan	14,260	250	17.53	150	10.52	4	16.00	4	16.00
Bridgend Urban	22,820	363	15.91	287	12.58	16	44.08	6	16.53
MAESTEG URBAN	22,240	329	14.79	269	12.10	7	21.28	7	21.28
Ogmore/Garw Urban	9,840	148	15.04	144	14.63	6	40.54	4	27.03
Porthcawl Urban	35,110	499	14.21	535	15.24	22	44.09	15	30.06
Perrybont Rural	31,420	397	12.64	437	13.91	16	40.30	13	32.75
Neath & Neath M.B.	41,200	566	13.74	519	12.60	23	40.64	16	28.27
Neath Rural	25,600	435	16.99	308	12.03	13	29.89	9	20.69
Pontypridd & Llantrisant Rural	37,980	523	13.77	535	14.09	20	38.24	15	28.68
Pontypridd Urban	9,560	182	19.04	100	10.46	8	43.96	3	16.48
Port Talbot & Glyncoirwg	46,680	877	18.79	511	10.95	30	34.21	23	26.23
Port Talbot M.B.	41,810	708	16.93	466	11.15	19	26.84	13	18.36
South East Glamorgan	37,450	491	13.11	523	13.97	10	20.37	8	16.29
Cardiff Rural	1,030	15	14.56	13	12.62	2	133.33	1	66.67
Cowbridge M.B.	19,180	313	16.32	153	7.98	6	19.17	5	15.97
Cowbridge Rural	18,970	279	14.71	222	11.70	8	28.67	3	10.75
Penarth Urban	11,790	165	13.99	170	14.42	5	30.30	3	18.18
Gower Rural	25,650	322	12.55	294	11.46	10	31.06	6	18.63
Llwynar Urban	32,170	432	13.43	473	14.70	9	20.83	8	18.52
Pontardawe Rural	108,210	1,487	13.74	1,577	14.57	48	32.28	27	18.16
Rhondda & Rhondda Urban									

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Maesteg Urban District

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases originally notified during 1955 and of the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital. A column is also given showing the number of deaths from certain Infectious Diseases during the year.

DISEASE	ORIGINALLY NOTIFIED		AFTER FINAL CORRECTION		TOTAL FOR 1955 AFTER FINAL CORRECTION	NUMBER OF DEATHS IN 1955	
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females
SCARLET FEVER	22	29	20	29	49	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	22	14	22	14	36	-	-
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE POLIOENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEASLES	282	272	284	272	556	-	-
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACUTE PNEUMONIA	33	16	32	16	48	12	4
ERYSIPELAS	3	3	3	3	6	-	-
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	7	-	7	7 (females)	-	-
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	5	12	5	12	17	7	1
TUBERCULOSIS, OTHER FORMS	2	2	2	-	2	1	-

INFANT DEATHS, 1955

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
F	1 month	Intracranial Haemorrhage due to Birth Injury
M	7 months	Bronchopneumonia
M	3 months	Bronchopneumonia
F	2 weeks	Prematurity
M	1 day	Intracranial Haemorrhage
M	3 months	Acute Bronchopneumonia
M	7 weeks	Gastro-entoritis
M	1 month	Spina Bifida with Meningocele
M	1 day	Cerebral Haemorrhage
F	5 minutes	Prematurity
M	3 months	Cerebral Haemorrhage
M	2 days	Cerebral Haemorrhage
M	2 months	Spina Bifida.
F	3 months	Influenza
M	2 months	Bilateral Pneumonia
M	14 hours	Prematurity

TUBERCULOSIS
Maesteg Urban District

In the course of the year, the number of Notifications of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Other Forms) received, was 19. This figure shows a decrease of 21 on the previous year.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Notified during the year was 5 males and 12 females. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2 males only.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 8, of these, 4 had not been Notified previously

The distribution of notifications and deaths is as follows :-

<u>WARD</u>	<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>	
	<u>PULMONARY</u>	<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	<u>PULMONARY</u>	<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>
Caerau	5	2	2	1
Nantyffyllon	2	-	2	-
East	3	-	1	-
West	7	-	3	-
<hr/>				
Totals ...	17	2	8	1

At the end of the year, after death removals, cures, altered diagnosis and transfers had been adjusted, there were 252 cases on the Department's Register, made up as follows :-

	<u>PULMONARY</u>	<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>
Males ...	98	18
Females ...	115	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	213	39
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The following Tables give the numbers of notifications received for the period 1945 - 1955 (inclusive) :-

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1945	15	19	34
1946	8	19	27
1947	21	19	40
1948	12	20	32
1949	24	15	39
1950	17	15	32
1951	8	16	24
1952	18	18	36
1953	17	14	31
1954	15	20	35
1955	5	12	17

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1945	7	13	20
1946	8	6	14
1947	8	7	15
1948	5	7	12
1949	6	6	12
1950	3	3	6
1951	3	4	7
1952	2	6	8
1953	3	1	4
1954	3	2	5
1955	2	-	2

No special provision is made by the Council for the treatment of Tuberculosis, but this is left to the Medical Practitioner in attendance, who, either directly or through the Medical Officer of Health, obtains the assistance of the Welsh Regional Hospital Board. No action was taken by the Council for the removal of patients under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936, during the year 1955.

HEALTH SERVICES

The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Glamorgan County Council :-

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery.
3. Health Visiting.
4. Home Nursing.
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Services.
7. Prevention of Illness; Care and After-Care.
8. Domestic Help Service.
9. Duties connected with Lunacy and Mental Health.
10. Provision of Health Centres.

These services are administered through the Divisional Office, County Council Offices, Quarella Road, Bridgend, with the exception of Lunacy, Mental Health and the County Ambulance Service.

The Hospitals of Mid-Glamorgan are administered by the Regional Hospital Board through the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee in Neath.

(1) SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Inspection of school-children and the holding of Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics is done by the County Council. The various age groups are examined periodically and from the school inspections, referred to the various clinics if so required.

Cod liver oil and malt is provided for cases of under-nutrition or under-development. In cases of Infectious Disease special steps are taken in conjunction with the school authorities to exclude all scholars who have been in contact with the patient.

(2)

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

The Glamorgan County Council maintains an ante-natal clinic every Monday afternoon in the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre, Church Street, Maesteg. The Regional Hospital Board provides, in addition, ante-natal clinics attended by Local Practitioners, in the same building.

Child Welfare Clinics are held every Tuesday morning and afternoon, while, in addition, clinics are held fortnightly in Trinity Church Hall, Nantyffyllon on Thursdays, and in the Spiritualist Church Hall, Caerau, on Wednesdays.

The Maesteg Maternity Home provides accommodation for 11 patients and cases are referred to this institution by the Divisional Medical Officer at Bridgend. Other cases are delivered by the County Midwives at home or referred to the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital for delivery. All maternity bookings are done through the Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics held at Maesteg.

The County Council also provides for the care and treatment of deformed, mentally defective and handicapped children. These cases are brought to light by school medical inspections and child welfare clinics or referred by general practitioners. In Maesteg a school clinic is provided in Plasnewydd School for Dental, Orthopaedic and Refraction cases. Homeless or neglected children are provided for in the Cottage Home, Bridgend, through the Children's Officer.

(3)

TUBERCULOSIS

Institutions are maintained by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. A Tuberculosis Clinic is held in the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre, Church Street, Maesteg on Wednesday and Friday mornings of each week.

(4)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Officers of the National Assistance Board, stationed locally, have a temporary Office in Church Street, Maesteg.

(5)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Maesteg Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for 18 patients.

(6)

SMALLPOX

Cases of suspected or confirmed Smallpox in South Wales will be admitted in the first instance to Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda. This Hospital can be made ready to admit patients within an hour from the time of notification. Where the consultant decides that a case should be admitted to a smallpox hospital he will arrange directly with Penrhys Hospital for the Hospital to be made ready to receive the patient.

(7)

GENERAL

The Maesteg General Hospital provides accommodation for 58 patients.

(8)

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Council does not provide for a vaccination centre in Maesteg but arrangements can be made with the medical practitioner by those who wish themselves or their children vaccinated.

An immunisation clinic is held fortnightly on Thursday mornings in the Maternity & Child Welfare Centre, Church Street, Maesteg, where immunisations are performed free of charge.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied by the Divisional Office in Bridgend, while Vaccination Lymph can be obtained from the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

The ambulance services are under the direction of the County Council. ALL CALLS for the service are dealt with via the main station at Aberkenfig (Telephone No. - ABERKENFIG 303), while sub-stations are established in the Maesteg General Hospital and in Caerau. Requests for ambulances not required until the next day are met by means of a certificate signed by a doctor, nurse or midwife and handed in at the local ambulance station not later than 8 p.m. on the previous day.

In emergencies, or ambulances required on the same day, the requests are made by telephone to Aberkenfig and the certificate handed to the ambulance driver when conveying the patient. The conveyance of maternity cases is arranged in the same manner. In cases of accidents or other sudden emergencies occurring immediately adjacent to an ambulance sub-station, drivers have been instructed to deal with the emergency and themselves inform the ambulance control station of the action they are taking, provided an ambulance is available in the sub-station at the time of emergency.

(10) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The County Council provides for the following Clinics :-

1. Ante-Natal	...	Monday afternoons	...	Maesteg
2. Child Welfare	...	Tuesdays all day	...	Maesteg
3. Child Welfare	...	Wednesday afternoons (fortnightly)	...	Caerau
4. Child Welfare	...	Thursday afternoons (fortnightly)	...	Nantyffyllon
5. Diphtheria Immunisation	...	Thursday mornings (monthly)	...	Maesteg
6. Birth Control	...	1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons (monthly)	...	Bridgend

School Clinics :-

7. Orthopaedic	...	Monthly	Plasnewydd School, Maesteg
8. Refraction	...	Periodically as required	Plasnewydd School, Maesteg
9. Dental	...	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday afternoons and all day Thursday	Plasnewydd School, Maesteg

The Regional Hospital Board provides for :-

1. Clinics in the Maesteg General Hospital -

Medical	...	...	Alternative Tuesday afternoons Fortnightly (by appointment)
Surgical	...	...	Thursday afternoons
Gynaecological	...	...	Alternative Tuesday afternoons Friday mornings
Ophthalmic	...	...	Periodically Tuesday mornings
E.N.T.	...	...	Indefinite Alternative Monday mornings
Dermatology	...	...	As required
Paediatrics	...	...	Thursday afternoons (monthly)
Radiology	...	...	Daily

2. Ante-Natal Clinics for General Practitioners in relation to the Maternity Home, in the Child Welfare Centre, Maesteg.
3. Chest Clinics on Wednesday and Friday mornings in the Maesteg Tuberculosis Clinic, Child Welfare Centre, Maesteg.
4. Venereal Diseases - V.D. Clinic, opposite General Station, Port Talbot. Treatment is free and confidential.

(11)

LABORATORY SERVICES

Bacteriological and Pathological examinations are carried out free of charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Chemical analysis is also undertaken, for which a charge is made.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTION 176
POWER OF LOCAL AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF THE
PREVENTION & TREATMENT OF BLINDNESS

All arrangements under this Section are undertaken by the Glamorgan County Council.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

The Inspector of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, maintains close co-operation with the Department. Each year a number of cases of neglected or ill-treated children is investigated by the Inspector, sometimes at the request of the Health Department.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Premises where cases of infectious disease occur are visited where this is thought necessary. The taking of swabs and immunisation of all contacts where applicable, is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health.

If removal to hospital is necessary, infected rooms are disinfected by the Department at the patient's home. When the patient is isolated at home, this is done on termination of the illness. Infected clothing, bedding, etc., are sometimes removed on request to the Maesteg Isolation Hospital and dealt with by steam-disinfection.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

One burial was arranged under the Act during the year.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE
SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1955

INSPECTIONS :-

Water Supply	....	....	....	....	220
Drainage	....	....	....	....	21
Offensive Trades	....	....	....	....	7
Factories and Workshops		....	....	....	48
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	36
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	48
Cinemas, etc	....	....	....	....	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....		....	....	50
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	635
Houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts				....	865
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	10
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	99
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	49
Food Shops	....	....	....	....	293
Dairies	....	....	....	....	9
Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	55
Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	....	312
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	22
Pet Animals Shop (Market Stall)	....		....	....	5

HOUSING

During the year, housing accommodation had been found in the Urban Area for 37 families. The approximate number on the waiting list for Council houses was 730 at the end of the year.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

By the Local Authority	12
By other persons or bodies	8

Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority :-

(a) Under the Housing Acts	746
(b) Other powers	10

DISINFESTATION

Council and private dwellings were disinfested during the year, the material used being D.D.T. and Gammexane in various forms.

The Health Department is notified when a new house has been allocated by the Council to a tenant, and the old house and furniture are inspected before the new residence is taken up. If found necessary, the house and furniture are then treated by the Department.

The following Table gives the number of houses treated during the year :-

New Council houses	12
Private dwellings (previous to occupation of Council houses)	6
Council Houses (Bug infestation)	4
Private Dwellings " "	13
Council Houses (Cockroach infestation)	18
Private dwellings " "	20
Council Houses (Ant infestation)	14
Private dwellings " "	30

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

During the year, 115 Abatement Notices, under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, were served.

23 Notices under Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936 and Section 30, Water Act, 1945 were served, to provide dwellings with a sufficient supply of water for domestic and sanitary purposes.

The following Notices were served in addition to the above, under other Sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, Housing Act, 1936 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :-

<u>ACT</u>		<u>NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936 :</u>		
Section 58 (Dangerous Structure)	....	3
Section 39(i)(c) (Drainage)	....	7
<u>Housing Act, 1936 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :</u>		
Section 11 (Housing Act)		
Notice of Time and Place	....	1

COURT PROCEEDINGS

Arising from the Abatement Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, Court proceedings were instituted against property owners for failure to abate nuisances, etc., arising from structural and sanitary defects, in respect of 38 properties. Court Orders were made for the repairs to be carried out in respect of 17 properties.

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

During the year under review, 15 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under provisions of the above Act which came into operation on 30th August, 1954. Of these applications, 13 were granted.

The applications for Certificates received for the whole of 1955 were less than the number received for the first four months of the operation of the Act.

A study of the position under Part II of the Act in the light of these figures is revealing and forces the Department to the conclusion that so far as this part of the Act is concerned, it has failed to be "Operation Rescue" in its purpose "to make further provision for securing or promoting the re-conditioning and maintenance of houses."

A further - and perhaps the most important - problem for the Local Authority is the action to be taken where owners decide to forego the increase in rent in face of the extent of the works indicated on the Certificate of Disrepair. In some cases Statutory Nuisance has been brought to the notice of the Department through application for a Certificate. In these instances it seems inevitable that in order to secure any real improvement through the operation of the Act it seems to us that the Local Authority will have to exercise concurrently their powers of Notice under Section 9 of the 1936 Act.

It would appear that the "repairs increase" provisions have merely had the effect of making good houses slightly better, as owners realise that it is not an economic proposition to incur heavy expenditure in achieving a standard of "good repair," in view of the small return they receive on their capital outlay. Similarly, conversion and improvement grants are not being applied for where they would serve the greatest need, the applications so far received in this Area have in all cases been made by and granted to owner-occupiers.

As the picture presents itself, there is little likelihood that any appreciable number of properties in the "old control category" will be the subject of improvement grants. Thus we get the anomaly in this class of house which, when occupied, is probably not repairable at a reasonable expense but, when vacated, is transformed into a property whose repair and improvement becomes an attractive proposition.

Slum clearance proposals were submitted to the Ministry in accordance with Circular No. 55/54. The return submitted gave the estimated number of houses within the Urban Area considered to be sub-standard and unfit for human habitation and the period which it was thought necessary to secure their demolition.

The estimated time needed to clear the sub-standard houses could only be an inspired guess - in the case of the Urban Area the anticipated rate of clearance was given as thirty years, fifty-eight dwellings being included in the first five-year programme.

RENT & MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS
ACTS, 1920 - 1939

RENT CERTIFICATES

During the year, 9 applications were received for Rent Certificates, 6 of which were granted. One application was withdrawn by the tenant as the works of repair had been carried out.

WATER

During the year, 18 samples of water were submitted for analysis to the County Laboratory. The samples are specified below :-

<u>Taken from</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Bacteriological Examination</u>	<u>Chemical Analysis</u>
Tap, Court Street	13.5.55.	Satisfactory	-
" Duffryn Road	13.5.55.	"	-
" Council Offices	13.5.55.	"	-
" Caerau Road	13.5.55.	"	-
" Coegnant Road	8.7.55.	Unsatisfactory	-
" Town Hall	8.7.55.	Satisfactory	-
" Town Hall	26.9.55.	"	-
Maesteg Swimming Pool, shallow end	14.7.55.	"	The physical characters of the samples are satisfactory.
Maesteg Swimming Pool, deep end	14.7.55.	"	
Garth Swimming Pool, shallow end	7.9.55.	"	The chemical and physical characters are satisfactory.
Garth Swimming Pool, deep end	7.9.55.	"	
Tap, Court Street	26.9.55.	"	-
" Duffryn Road	26.9.55.	Unsatisfactory	-
" Picton Street	26.9.55.	"	-

Except for the results of the swimming pool samples, copies of all laboratory reports were forwarded to the Engineer and Manager, Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. The Surveyor of the Council receives all copies of samples taken from the Council's swimming pools.

During the year, 384 yards of 3" cast iron main were laid, bringing a water supply to the Duffryn Madog Estate, and 235 yards of 3" cast iron main to the Park Housing Estate by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board.

Houses in the Maosteg District are supplied with water from the public water mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages.

An adequate supply of water was maintained during the year.

ANNUAL RAINFALL

The total rainfall for the year, as registered at the Council's Welfare Park, was 64.03 inches.
The following Table gives the rainfall records in the Area of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board for the year 1955:

MONTH	MERTHYR MAWR (1)	BRIDGEND (2)	SCHWYLL (3)	LLANHARAN (4)	ST. ATHAN (5)	PWLLHY (6)	MAESTEG (7)	NANT-Y- MOEL (8)	PONT-Y- CYMMER (9)
Jan'y	3.19	2.98	3.00	3.99	4.52	3.62	5.02	7.05	6.44
Feb'y	3.12	2.83	3.12	2.83	2.59	2.79	3.73	4.24	4.27
Mar	1.48	1.29	1.48	1.85	1.26	1.54	3.94	3.99	3.98
Apr	3.14	2.85	3.44	3.83	2.42	3.11	5.77	6.84	6.61
May	4.38	3.75	4.51	6.16	4.83	4.93	7.53	8.96	8.90
June	6.40	4.93	6.02	7.19	5.87	6.57	9.88	11.95	11.28
July	1.28	1.49	1.20	0.64	0.21	0.82	0.97	1.89	1.37
Aug	0.47	0.86	0.65	1.43	0.79	0.81	1.46	2.50	2.12
Sept	2.64	2.71	2.43	2.92	2.13	3.25	4.21	4.94	4.83
Oct	3.47	2.22	2.20	2.91	1.55	2.54	4.55	5.76	5.01
Nov	3.23	3.12	3.21	3.90	2.23	3.89	6.00	7.48	6.85
Dec	7.86	6.37	6.39	7.94	4.42	7.23	10.97	14.54	13.21
TOTALS	40.66	35.40	37.65	45.59	32.82	41.10	64.03	80.14	74.97

Average Annual Rainfall (Maesteg Area), over the previous
20 years 71.03 inches.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :-

Premises (1)	m/c line no. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	m/c line no. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	43	40	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	28	44	-	-	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total		71	84	-	-	

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

Particulars (1)	m/c line no. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (7)	m/c line no. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8			" N I L "			8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9						9
(a) Insufficient	10						10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11						11
(c) Not separate for sexes							
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
Total	60						60

3. - OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 & 111) :-

" N I L "

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
RODENT CONTROL ACTIVITIES

During the year 1955, two complete maintenance treatments of the Council's Sewers were again carried out. The following Table gives the state of infestation in the Area for the 12 months - April, 1955 - March, 1956 :-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwellings (including Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in the Area	26	5,720	767	6,513	24
II. Number of properties inspected, by : (a) Notification (b) Survey under the Act (c) Otherwise	-	95	22	117	-
	26	275	41	342	6
	-	-	-	-	-
III. Total inspections and re-inspections	49	503	83	635	-
IV. Properties (in Sect. II) infested by : (a) Rats (Major Minor) (b) Mice (Major Minor)	-	-	-	-	-
	7	143	11	161	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	6	4	10	-
V. Infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by Local Authority	7	149	15	171	-
VI. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	15	155	18	188	-

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

A person shall not keep a Pet Shop unless Licensed by the Local Authority in whose area the shop is situated.

The only Pet Shop in the Maesteg Area - that of the inside Market Hall - was again Licensed during the year.

OLD METAL & MARINE STORES PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, AMENDMENT ACT, 1907, SECTION 86

During the year there were no persons Registered under the Act.

OFFENSIVE TRADES - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 SECTION 107

Three persons were granted Renewals of Consent to Establish an Offensive Trade during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 TO 1954 - SLAUGHTERING

During the year, 11 Licences to Slaughter animals were granted in the Urban Area. The provisions of the Acts relating to humane slaughtering were carried out.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SECTION 57(2) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There were 2 Licences for the keeping of premises as a Slaughterhouse, granted during the year. The Slaughterhouse at the rear of Caerau Road, Caerau, is now not in use. All slaughtering is carried out at No. 263 Bridgend Road, Maesteg.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951
REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

No action under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act was taken during the year under review.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, gives powers to Local Authorities to apply to a Magistrates' Court for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

The object of this provision is both to secure the interests of the person needing care and attention and to prevent injury to the health of, or serious nuisance to, other members of the community.

Although the Local Authority is loth to take action which involves interference with the liberty of the subject, there are occasions when a person's welfare can best be protected by setting in motion the compulsory removal procedure.

The type of case which from time to time comes to the notice of the Health Department is to be found in the aged person living on his own, whose living conditions have deteriorated to such an extent that he himself is not only neglected, but the house also.

Unless, however, it can be proved to the Magistrate that such a person is actually residing in conditions that are "insanitary" (a term not defined in the Act), no application for removal to Hospital or Part III Establishment can be made to a Court or a Magistrate.

The difficulty in operating the provisions lies in the fact that the stringent wording of Section 47(i) of the 1948 Act limits process to the comparatively few cases in which all the pre-requisite conditions are fulfilled.

Before a Medical Officer of Health can issue a certificate, he must be satisfied that the affected person is either :-

- (a) suffering from a grave chronic disease;
or
- (b) being either aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, is living in insanitary conditions.

In respect of both categories, there is a further condition that the affected person is unable to give himself proper care and attention or is not receiving it from others.

Although the fanatical determination of many persons to preserve an independent way of life is a quality which calls for the greatest respect and admiration, when living deteriorates into an animal-like existence, it is obvious that the interests and welfare of the person can best be protected by a compulsory Order to a suitable Establishment.

SUMMARY OF THE MEAT & OTHER FOODS
CONDEMNED IN THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1955
Maestog Urban District

Description	Reason for Condemnation	Approximate Weight (lbs)
3 Bovine Carcasses	Tuberculosis	1,518
10 " Heads	"	300
43 " Lungs	"	344
14 " Livers	"	140
254 " Livers	Parasitic & Bacterial Diseases	2,540
30 " Lungs	" " "	240
191 Sheep Livers	" " "	573
254 " Plucks	" " "	1,270
1 Sheep Carcase	Parasitic Diseases & Emaciation	38
6 Calves Livers	" "	6
Meat	Bruised	842
Meat	Bone Taint	1,080
Total ...		8,891

Other Foods :-

Canned Meat	Damaged & Blown	664
" Fruit & Veg.	" "	995
" Fish	" "	23
" Milk	" "	80
" Baked Beans	" "	22
" Soup	" "	22
Dry Fish	Decomposition	126
Wet Fish	"	84
Rice and Flour	Damp and mite infested	20
Cake	Damp	17
7 Chickens	Decomposition	27
Sausages	"	74
Cheese	Extensive Mould	105
Bacon	Decomposition	134
Coffee	Damp	2
Total ...		2,395

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR PART
Maastog Urban District

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	861	485	3,468	1,725	-
Number inspected	861	435	3,140	1,560	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	274	6	445	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	31%	1.3%	13.8%	0.8%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	51	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.2%	-	-	0.51%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

SUPERVISION OF MILK DISTRIBUTION
FOOD & DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES & ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950

During the year, 11 samples of heat-treated and pastourised milk were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination. Nine of the samples were satisfactory.

11 samples of ungraded milk were submitted for examination and were satisfactory.

7 samples of milk were submitted for biological examination. All were free from Tubercle Bacilli.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)
(PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1953

Under the provisions of the Regulations, 15 Dealer's Licences were issued to use the Special Designations 'Pastourised' or 'T.T. Pastourised' in relation to milk sold in the Urban Area, during the year.

7 Dairies are Registered within the Council's Area under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

ICE-CREAM
THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938 (SECTIONS 13, 14 & 37)
THE ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC) REGULATIONS,
1947 TO 1952.

5 shop premises were Registered during the year for the sale of ice-cream. Samples of ice-cream submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were found to be satisfactory.

At the end of the year 1955, 79 business premises were on the Department's Register as Registered under the Act for the sale of ice-cream and 6 business premises for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. The Heat Treatment Regulations are complied with locally by the manufacturers of ice-cream.

THE FOOD & DRUGS ACTS

We are indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following summary of articles sampled by the County Sanitary Inspectors in the Maesteg District during the year :-

Milk	30	Ground Cinnamon	1
Butter	6	Cream of Tartar	1
Pork Sausages	2	Raisin Wine Flavour	1
Jam		Treacle	1
Coffee and Chicory		Chutney	1
Essence	3	Cochineal	1
Margarine	3	Soft Drink Powder	1
Cake Mixture	6	Curry Powder	1
Ground Ginger	2	Ground Almonds	1
Cream of Mushroom		Ground Nutmeg	1
Soup	1	Mustard	1
Sultanas	1	Glaze Cherries	2
Icing Sugar	1	Dessert Powder	1
Fish Paste	1	Shredded Beef Suet	2
Meat Paste	1	Mincemeat	2
Ice Cream	5	Custard Powder	1
Beef Sausages	1	Sauce	1
Sterilised Cream	9	Gravy Browning	1
Rice	4	Soda Water	4
Asprin	1	Dessicated Coconut	2
Sponge Mixture	4	Spirit Vinegar	1
Halibut Liver Oil	1	Whipping Cream	1
Salad Cream	1	Christmas Pudding	1
Honey	2	Table Jelly	3
Tea	3	Vinegar	1
Baking Powder	4	Almond Marzipan	2
Salmon Spread	1	White Pepper	1
Canned Pork Brawn	1	Table Salt	1
Canned Cranberries	1	Lard	1
Grape Juice	1	Cheese Cake Mixture	1
Life Salts	1	Sago	1
Patent Groats	1	Lentils	1
Vironta Wine	1	Mixed Fruits	1
Blackcurrant Cordial	1	Lemon Curd	1
Wheat Flakes	1	Canned Stewed Steak	1
Corn Flakes	1	Condensed Milk	1
Tomato Sauce	2	Orange Crush	3
Lemon Squash	1	Trifle Pack	2
Tea Scone Mixture	2	Self Raising Flour	2
Self Raising Flour	2	Cornflour	2
Oatcakes	1	Pearl Barley	3

(Total ... 167)

One sample of soda water was found, under analysis, to be devoid of sodium bicarbonate. Proceedings were taken against the Manufacturers, resulting in fine of £2. 2. Od. plus £2. 2. Od. Advocate's Fee and 15/- Analyst's Fee.

SEWAGE WORKS

The new Maesteg Sewage Works has been in operation for a period of approximately two years and has treated on an average of two million gallons per day of raw sewage.

The effluent discharging into the river Llynfi tested from time to time by the Glamorgan River Board has complied favourably with the standard demanded by the said Board.

Approximately 1,800 cu. yds. of sludge has been removed from the drying beds.

Trade Effluent

Over a short period, difficulty with regard to filtration through the biological filters was experienced. After sampling and testing, it was found that the fatty substance creating an impervious film over the water was from the product of a local factory. The factory management was informed and an invitation was accepted by them to be shown over the Works.

Their keen interest has been proved by the fact that no trace of the offending substance has passed into the works since.

Detergents

The extensive use of detergents by housewives for clothes washing purposes adds to the work of maintenance. A slight activation of the effluent will produce a volume of foam. A trap has been placed to hold the foam prior to the effluent entering the Humus Tank. Each day the foam is skimmed off, loaded into a dumper. Approximately two cubic yards per day is collected and disposed of.

Preservation

Work has begun by the staff on wire brushing and coating with bitumastic paint the distributor arms. This work is planned to embrace the whole of the machinery, in stages, when the Staff may have time available.

Grounds

Excellent work by the Staff has been done in transforming the once rough, stoney, rush-ridden ground into lush green lawns, a row of rose trees planted from the bridge to the office block, contrasting the cultural with the natural, and enhancing the sylvan setting of the Works.

It is regretted, however, that due to inadequate fencing of the Works, advances into the field of horticulture are haltered by roaming animals.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

There is a daily collection of refuse operating within the Urban Area. Refuse being collected from nearly every house in the District, the only exceptions being outlying farms and cottages.

The daily collection apart from being a first-class service to the public, has the advantage of there being a reduction in the deadweight lifting for the refuse loader, so that the work becomes less arduous.

The collection is performed by direct labour, and motor vehicles are used for the purpose.

The frequency of collection is satisfactory, but refuse is blown or scattered by the wind from the assortment of unsuitable appliances that are utilised for house refuse placed to await collection. The usual containers are uncovered buckets, wooden boxes, or cardboard boxes, which are frequently upset by roaming sheep in search of food.

Under the circumstances, some inconvenience and annoyance is caused to the public and refuse collectors by the littered condition attained in our streets. The introduction of a municipal bin ownership scheme with all its advantages would greatly prevent such nuisances arising.

Irregular habits on the part of householders also lead to deliberate but surreptitious dumping of refuse of all kinds into our back lanes, rivers and waste spaces in close proximity to dwelling-houses, although the daily collection of refuse is in vogue in the District.

There is no change in the method of disposal, the refuse of the whole Area being tipped on low or marshy ground.

In order that the service may be brought up to present-day cleansing standards, the introduction of the approved standardised type of refuse receptacle, and the erection of a refuse destruction works, is a matter well worthy of consideration by the Local Authority.
